



**FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT**

Brothers,

Adversity comes in many forms—illness, financial hardship, loss, or even the quiet struggles no one else sees. As Knights, obviously we are not immune to these trials. But we are called to face them differently than the world.

**Faith as Our Anchor**

• When the storms of life rise, we do not stand on shifting sand; we stand on the rock of Christ. Scripture reminds us that “in our weakness, His power is made perfect.”

**Brotherhood as Our Shield**

• One of the greatest gifts of the Knights is that no man stands alone.

In times of trial, we are called to bear one another’s burdens—whether that means a listening ear, a helping hand, or simply showing up.

**Service as Our Response**

• Adversity can tempt us to turn inward, but our calling is to turn outward.

When we serve others in their struggles, we often find healing for our own wounds.

Brothers, adversity is not the enemy—it is the forge. It is where God shapes us into men of deeper faith, stronger character, and greater compassion. Let us ask God for renewed courage, knowing that no matter the trial, we do not walk alone. We walk with Christ. We walk with each other. And together, we will overcome.

Vivat Jesus!

**GK Rene Olivares**

**We are Catholic men  
who lead, serve,  
protect and defend.  
We share a desire to  
be better husbands,  
fathers, sons,  
neighbors and role  
models**

**IN MEMORIAM  
SK RENO PUENTE**



Past Worthy Grand Knight, Sir Knight **Reno Puente Jr.** died suddenly in his sleep on March 20, 2026. **Reno** was 56-years old.

I first met **Reno** at an ACTS retreat in 2017. He was on Team and the DJ at Karaoke night. What a perfect job for an outgoing, humorous, and unpretentious guy. He is so likeable that you don’t want to let him down. He repeated this gig years later at a Seminarian dinner and must have remembered our first meeting as he called me out again. Fair

warning to the rest of you—only **Reno** could get me to sing Karaoke, and he did it twice.

We remember **Reno** as a joyful, kind, servant leader dedicated to making others look good. In everything he did, a resemblance of Jesus Christ was always present. He couldn’t, and wouldn’t take a single step forward without Christ leading the way.

His involvement with the Knights in the Council and the Assembly, ACTS, the Men’s Club, Central Catholic (aka the Central Mafia), as a Coach for basketball and particularly his involvement with volleyball has had a positive impact on so many lives.

**Reno** stepped in as our council’s Grand Knight six years ago when the deputy Grand Knight was unable to fulfill the role. His leadership, in the era of Covid, ensured the stability and continued growth of our Council. “Here am I: send me” fits **Reno** to a tee.

Check out the photos of some of the activities **Reno** participated in as a Knight by clicking [here](#). My favorite is the taco eating leprechaun.

**Reno** was a loyal friend to many. **Tony Paniagua** forwarded the photo below remembering that **Reno** came over to celebrate Tony’s birthday each year.



We offer our deepest condolences to **Reno's** wife, Cathy, and their children. Blessings to our **Brother Knight Reno III** and his fiancée Cristina Restrepo for a long and loving marriage due to begin March 28. Your dad shared that he really loves Cristina and is so excited for your future together.

**Reno's** response to how's it going was usually "Better than I deserve". We know that your final destination is better than any of us deserve. God Bless brother **Reno**.

**Services for Reno at St. Luke:** Monday, April 6 viewing from 5 to 7pm followed by a Rosary.

Tuesday, April 7 viewing at 8:30am with Mass at 10am followed by a Celebration of Life in the parish hall.

To honor our brother, please wear your blue Knights vest or other Knights wear to attend the rosary or funeral mass.

### Save The Date

(See our [website](#) for details.)

- Apr. 5 Easter Buttons Giveaway
- Apr. 7 Reno Puento Funeral
- Apr. 9 Council Meeting
- Apr. 11 Dedication-Habitat for Humanity
- Apr. 18 Special Olympics Cycling
- Apr. 19 Taco Sale
- Apr. 23 Officers Meeting

### MASS FOR BLESSED CONCHITA

**Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller** concelebrated mass with **Fr. Joel and Fr. Jorge** on March 3, the anniversary of the death of Blessed Concepcion Cabrera (Conchita), co-founder, with Father Felix de Jesus Rougier, of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.



The attached photo, in front of the Cross of the Apostolate, celebrates the occasion. Featured are **Archbishop Gustavo, Fr. Joel, Fr. Jorge**, and the religious of the Cross of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This photo is also a tribute to the four Knights who fabricated and erected the cross (second row from left to right) **Juan Torres, Javier Barrientes, Luis Lopez and Michael Rios**. Congratulations men on this very moving religious art. For more photos click [here](#).

### EXEMPLIFICATION

**Jason Benavides, David Fraga-Guzman, Sean Bailey, and Bernardo "Benny" Garcia**, (front row next to **Eric Rojas** from left to right) became members of our council in an exemplification held at the church on March 11th.



**Sean** is the father of BK **Joseph Bailey**. We are delighted to welcome you to our council brothers.

Click [here](#) for more photos.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

ST LUKE COUNCIL #10240 SAN ANTONIO, TX US

## The Good Knight Newsletter

April 2026

### FAITH IN ACTION (FIA)

#### BASKETBALL STATE FREE THROW

Three St. Luke students participated in the State Free Throw contest on March 7. All three medaled. Abigail Fernandez won 1st place for the 13 year old girls (she hit 22 of 25 free throws). Sebastian Garcia won 2nd place in the boys 13 year old. Harrison Mendez won 3rd place in the 10 year old boys division. Another awesome year for St. Luke free throw shooters. Thanks to **District Deputy Bubba Morales, Robert Rosas, and Joe Torres** for helping run the program.

A special thanks to event leader **Tony Paniagua**. Tony was ever present through all the three stages and ensured this was a very successful program. Thank you **Tony** for doing an amazing job.



Pictured above is Harrison Mendez, his family and our Knights team.

For more event photos click [here](#).

### SPRING GAMES SPECIAL OLYMPICS

**Joe and Alicia Torres** organized our volunteer efforts at the Games, April 20 and 21, held at East Central ISD High School Stadium.



The track and field events were held in beautiful sunshine and **Joe, Alicia, Daniel Lozano, Tony Paniagua, Owen Villarreal, Al Frausto, Robert Rosas and David Beales** prepared meals and awarded medals to the athletes.

For more event photos click [here](#).

### 2026 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT.

Congratulations to Louis Marin and the golf committee on a wonderful event.

Next month's issue will have more details.

### KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

**Daniel Lozano** has been a Knight for eight years, beginning with Council 7256 at Santo Niño in San Antonio before transferring to our Council. He is also a 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight and transferred to our Assembly.



**Daniel** is a proud grandfather of two St. Luke School students. He keeps busy as a Guadalupano, he participates in the Men of St. Joseph ministry and he volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul. He also serves in the jail ministry and recently started helping with Special Olympics. His dedication to serving others is clear in his commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

### FAMILY OF THE MONTH



We are pleased to recognize **SK Javier and his wife Eloisa Barrientes** and their family as family of the month for February, 2026. **Javier and**



**Eloisa** are blessed with five children and exemplify a family committed to faith and service. **Javier** generously shares his time and talents in several ministries, including the Men of St. Joseph, Teen ACTS, High School and Adult Confirmation, EDGE and the 4 PM mass choir.

**Eloisa** is also deeply involved in parish life. She participates in Women of the Well, coordinates Quinceaneras and serves in both EDGE and Teen ACTS, supporting the spiritual formation of our youth.

Their commitment to service is reflected in their children as well. Two of their daughters, Araceli and Anani faithfully serve as altar servers and are also active participants of EDGE.

The Barrientes family is a wonderful example of living out their faith through service, ministry and family life. We are grateful for their generosity and the positive impact they continue to make in our parish.

### TACO SALE

This month's taco sale will take place on **April 19**. We'll make 200+ tacos in the school cafeteria beginning at 7am and sell them after the 8 and 10am masses. Bring your coffee!

### WHO AM I?

Can you guess which Knight of Council 10240 this is?



1. Attended school in the Edgewood School District.
2. Served as Student Council president in high school.
3. Graduated from SW Texas State University with a BBA in Business Administration and from St. Mary's with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Administration.
4. Served in civil service in the Dept. of the USAF for 30-years.
5. Served in pastoral work in the Archdiocese of San Antonio for over 25-years.
6. Married to his beautiful bride, Viola. They have two grown children each and five grandchildren.

Click [here](#) for the answer.

### A CONVERSATION WITH FATHER JOEL.

#### Part 2 – Our Church

This segment of my conversation with Fr. Joel was more of a question-and-answer session. What follows are my understanding of Fr. Joel's responses to the posed questions.

**What do you consider your**

### **greatest strengths and weaknesses?**

My greatest strength is my faith in God. I am committed to doing God's work and I know that he will bless my ministry.

I enjoy being a priest and I enjoy preaching. A challenge I face preaching in English is the ability to find the correct words to convey God's message. It is two times the effort for me to preach in English as it is to preach in Spanish.



I am a naturally shy person. This is both a strength and a weakness. Being shy and introspective allows me to carefully consider my words and actions and be empathetic to others. I am usually not rash by nature.

The position of pastor requires people skills and I work hard all the time to overcome my natural tendency to not engage.



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## ***Have you any Goals and Objectives for your tenure as pastor of St. Luke?***

My goal as Pastor is to show people the love of God. I made this promise when I was ordained.

St. Luke has a large number of active ministries. Ministry fosters community and the community is our church. I wish to encourage all ministry members to recognize that their ministries are part of the church and that they nourish that bond to enhance the community of the church and participation in church events and not solely focus on their own ministry as the ultimate goal.

## ***Is there anything that has surprised you (in either a positive or negative way) in your role as a pastor?***

I was not prepared for the large number of decisions I have to make on all kinds of issues.

Many see the way to God is through their priests. While, I embrace my mission to show people the love of God, our people should strive to belong to God directly.

I, by personality, have the tendency to avoid conflict in life. I try to find a way to fix an issue (maybe it's the mechanic in me) rather than rushing to swift judgement. There are times in my role as pastor that

I am required to make decisions that may not be popular but I am prepared to make those decisions I feel are just.

## ***What do you consider are your greatest challenges?***

St. Luke is a church with on-going maintenance needs and aging infrastructure. Planning is required to identify future upgrade expenditures and ensure that appropriate financing is in place to at least maintain the current level of service. While attendance at our weekend masses has increased in the near four years I have been pastor, from 1500 to 1800 people, financial donations have not increased. One example of an upcoming expenditure is the replacement of 20 air conditioning units that are 25-years old (estimated cost \$400,000).

## ***Do you notice any significant changes to the Catholic Church since your ordination?***

I believe the influence and character of the popes has a big impact on the Church.

John Paul II was a warm and loving pope, Benedict more of an intellectual, Francis an advocate for the poor and Leo appears to be more of a balance. The character of the popes is subject to criticism - Benedict perhaps too aloof, Francis too liberal etc. and that criticism creates division. My

prayer is that people change their focus from criticism to seek a unity in the church based on the love of God.

## ***What are your thoughts about the St. Luke Knights of Columbus? Is there anything you would like to see the Knights do to further support you, the parish, the community?***

The St. Luke Knights are great supporters of our parish. The leadership of Oscar Valdez, Felipe Jiminez and now Rene Olivares have made the Knights available to support the parish where needed. The St. Luke Knights are a stark contrast to the Knights in other parishes I have been, where they don't support their pastor or the needs of their church in the way the Knights do here.

As far as what more the Knights can do, I will have to think about that and maybe get back to you.

**THE END**

**Father Joel's** story is the embodiment of the true disciple of Jesus. Here is a man who was fulfilling his life dreams. He had worked hard to start his own car mechanic business, built his own house, had a girlfriend. He gave it all up when he heard God's call to become a priest.

**Father Joel** your faith is inspiring. Long may you enjoy your vocation and shepherd



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God's flock. May the power of God's grace accompany and protect you forever.

### RITO DE INICIACION CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS (RICA).

Every month I learn something new about the activities of our Knights. Following the article on OCIA two months ago, **Gerardo Escobedo Sainz** called to ask me if I had heard about the Spanish version of OCIA known as RICA.

**Gerardo and Luis Colon**, bookends in the photo above, are facilitators in RICA. **Gerardo** sent the following description of RICA.



In our parish, we not only follow the RICA process prescribed by the Church, but we also enrich it with additional topics that support the solid formation of the candidates and catechumens. Participants are introduced not only to the

fundamentals of the Catholic faith, but also to deeper teaching and the practical application in daily life, within an environment rooted in prayer.

We incorporate dynamic activities that help participants discover and appreciate the richness of the Church, encouraging them to integrate these treasures into their personal lives. Additionally, RICA is open to those you have already received their sacraments and wish to deepen their understanding of the faith, revisit the teaching of the Catechism, or renew their commitment to living as active members of the Church.

Meetings are every Sunday from 11:30am to 1:30 pm, in time to attend the 2:00 pm Spanish Mass. Click [here](#) for combined RICA and OCIA photos.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

Pray for **Father Joel's** family on the sudden loss of their beloved mother **Juana Gomez Medina**, in early March. May she rest in peace.

**Wellness Director SK Felix Yruegas'** cancer screening came back negative thank

God. **Felix** and his wife **Lillian** had a bad fall this past Monday but thankfully their visit to the emergency room revealed no broken bones and are resting at home.

**Edgardo Troche Moreira** will undergo full body testing to determine the extent of his cancer. Let us pray that there is no spread and that his cancer will be fully cured.

Check out our updated prayer request list for April by clicking [here](#).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to this month's contributors **Father Joel Quezada, Rene Olivares, Robert Rosas, Gerardo Escobedo** and the friends of **Reno - SK Jose Jones, SK Joe Valdez, SK Tony Paniagua, Ernie MacDonald, Manuel Rubio, and David Cameron**.

Forward articles, events, photos to **David Beales** @ [dpbeales@gmail.com](mailto:dpbeales@gmail.com).

CLICKABLES...Click an item below for more information.

